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Message Text

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14
ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 DODE-00 (ISO) W
---------- 056857
R 281045Z APR 76
FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
TO COMDESRON TWO TWO
INFO USDAO DAKAR
COMSECONDFLT
COMNAVSURFLANT NORFOLK VA
CINCLANTFLT NORFOLK VA
USS DONALD B BEARY
USS CAPODANNO
CNO WASHDC
COMCRUDESGRU EIGHT
CHINFO WASHDC
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON
SECSTATE WASHDC 1882

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 0860

E.O. 11652; GDS
TAGS: OCLR
SUBJECT: PORT VISIT CONAKRY

REF: COMDESRON TWO TWO 232347Z APR 76

1.THIS MESSAGE COMMENTS ON PARAS 7 THROUGH 10 REFTEL. LATER MESSAGE WILL COMMENT ON GENERAL AND SELECTED VISITING, CROWD CONTROL AND ENTERTAINMENT DESIRED ABOARD SHIP, AS SOON AS WRITTEN OFFICIAL CLEARANCE FOR VISIT GRANTED. EMBASSY HAS NOW RECEIVED SPECIFIC ORAL CLEARANCE FROM PRESIDENT SEKOU TOURE'S CHIEF OF PROTOCOL.

2. EMBASSY WISHES ORGANIZE BASKETBALL GAME BETWEEN SHIP'S TEAM AND GUINEAN TEAM. REQUEST ASSESSMENT ON LEVEL OF SHIP'S TEAM. GAME COULD BE SET UP WITH GUINEAN NATIONAL TEAM (WHICH WAS DEFEATED TWICE IN CLOSE GAMES BY CROSSROADS AFRICAN SQUAD OF GOOD US COLLEGE PLAYERS) OR AT LESS AD-VANCED LEVEL.
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3. HOPE SHIP CAN ALSO FIELD VOLLEYBALL TEAM, AS THIS VERY
POPULAR SPORT HERE. ADVISE.

4. EMBASSY TENNIS COURT CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR SHIP'S
CREW. THIS IS EXCELLENT COURT BUT ONLY SUITABLE ONE IN
CONAKRY. CAN ARRANGE MATCH BETWEEN PLAYERS FROM SHIP AND
TWO AVERAGE GUINEAN PLAYERS PLUS VARIOUS EXPATRIATE TENNIS
LOVERS. SOFTBALL AND GOLF NOT PLAYED HERE, ALTHOUGH IF
DESIRED WILL ATTEMPT OBTAIN PLAYING FIELD FOR SOFTBALL
GAME AMONG CREW; SOME OF EMBASSY STAFF WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY
WISH PLAY ALSO.

5. IMPORTANT ITEM. DOES SHIP HAVE COMBO THAT COULD PLAY
AT EMBASSY BICENTENNIAL RECEPTIONSCHEDULED 22 MAY 1900 TO
PROBABLY MIDNIGHT? IF SO, WHAT TYPE OF MUSIC? SOUL IS
GUINEAN FAVORITE, THOUGH ROCK, JAZZ OR COUNTRY WOULD ALSO
BE POPULAR. WE PLAN DANCING. ADVISE ASAP. EMBASSY WILL PAY BUT
PLEASE BE FRANK ABOUT QUALITY OF GROUP. WE'D MUCH PREFER AMERI-
CAN COMBO TO GUINEANS IF SHIP'S COMBO IS REASONABLY SKILLED.

6. ALL LIBERTY PARTIES SHOULD BE IN UNIFORM WHITES AS
INDICATED REFTEL. CONAKRY IS PROBABLY WORST LIBERTY PORT
IN ENTIRE WORLD. THERE ARE NO RESTAURANTS AND NO SUITABLE
BARS. AFRICAN NIGHT CLUBS ARE INTERESTING, BUT DO NOT
GET STARTED UNTIL ABOUT MIDNIGHT. THERE ARE VIRTUALLY NO
SOUVENIRS OR OTHER ITEMS TO PURCHASE AT ANYTHING LIKE
REASONABLE PRICES. PRINCIPAL PROBLEM IS TOTALLY ARTIFICIAL
EXCHANGE RATE OF 20 GUINEAN SYLIS TO US$1. REALISTIC RATE
CLOSER TO 200GS - US$1. FOR THIS REASON, ONE BOTTLE
REPEAT BOTTLE OF BEER IN NIGHT CLUB COSTS $7.50. PRICES
OF OTHER ITEMS COMPARABLE. EMBASSY REQUESTS THAT SHIP'S
CREW BE STRICTLY INSTRUCTED NOT TO INDULGE IN BLACK MARKET
EXCHANGES. THIS IS CRIMINAL OFFENSE AS WELL AS POLITICAL
SOREPOINT, AND IS PROSECUTED RUTHLESSLY.

7. EMBASSY IS WORKING UP PROGRAM OF ENTERTAINMENT FOR CREW.
PLANS NOW INCLUDE VISIT TO BEACHES ON ISLAND OFF CONAKRY
(NO BEACHES ON MAINLAND). DOES SHIP HAVE LAUNCH THAT COULD
BE USED FOR THESE EXCURSIONS? EMBASSY RECREATION ASSOCIATION
HAS SMALL LAUNCH CARRYING ABOUT 15-20 PERSONS THAT COULD
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ALSO BE USED ALTHOUGH WE WOULD APPRECIATE REIMBURSEMENT FUEL.
OUR LAUNCH NOW HAVING MECHANICAL PROBLEMS; IF ONE OF USS
CAPODANNO ENGINEERS COULD TAKE A LOOK, EMBASSY WOULD BE
VERY GRATEFUL.

8. WE ARE ALSO PLANNING TO ORGANIZE DAY-LONG EXCURSION TO
INTERIOR CITY OF KINDIA ABOUT TWO SCENIC HOURS FROM
CONAKRY. FACILITIES EXIST FOR PICNIC IN BEAUTIFUL AFRICAN

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SETTING, WATERFALL, SWIMMING. SIZE OF EXCURSION WILL DE-
PEND ON TRANSPORTATION WE CAN ARRANGE. WILL ADVISE.

9. EMBASSY HAS TWO SWIMMING POOLS AT PRIVATE RESIDENCES
WHICH CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR REASONABLE NUMBER OF
CREW. ASSUME SHIP CAN PROVIDE PICNIC LUNCHES AND BEVERAGES
FOR SHIP'S PERSONNEL FOR ALL OF THESE EVENTS: I.E., SWIMMING
POOLS, PICNIC EXCURSION TO INTERIOR AND BOAT TRIPS
TO BEACHES.

10. EMBASSY HOPES THAT GUINEAN GOVERNMENT WILL ORGANIZE
CULTURAL EVENING INCLUDING WORLD RENOWNED GUINEAN DANCE
AND DRUMMING TROUPE, "BALLETS AFRICAINES" AT PEOPLE'S
PALACE, PRESUMABLY EVENING 21 MAY. IF SO, ENTIRE SHIP'S
CREW WOULD BE INVITED. THIS WOULD BE WORTHWHILE AND POPULAR
EVENT FOR ALL CONCERNED. WILL ADVISE.

11. RE PARA 9 REFTEL, UNIFORM FOR OFFICERS AT AMBASSADOR'S
BICENTENNIAL RECEPTION SHOULD BE DRESS WHITES. IN VIEW

DURATION VISIT, NOT CERTAIN YET WHAT OTHER OFFICIAL
EVENTS CAN BE SCHEDULED. IF OTHERS PLANNED, WILL ADVISE
RE UNIFORM ATTIRE.

12. WILL ADVISE AFTER CONSULTATIONS GOG RE PRESS CONFERENCE
REQUIREMENTS AND SHORE PATROL REQUIREMENTS.

13. GUINEA IS A VERY STRICT TOTALITARIAN POLICE STATE,
AND HAS NO APPARENT PROBLEM OF DRUG ABUSE. EMBASSY LIAISON
OFFICER WHO WILL MEET IN DAKAR CAN HELP WITH BRIEFINGS
ON SUCH MATTERS.
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